PRESIDENT: Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, you tabled these two motions and I would ask you to step up to a higher plane with me and to withdraw those motions so as to admit of a discussion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That I may consider.

PRESIDENT: Will you consider it?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I will consider it and let you know my decision tomorrow.

PRESIDENT: So, the consideration of the motion for adjournment given notice of by Mr. Tarakan will stand over until tomorrow.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed to the general discussion of the budget. To-day and tomorrow and a few hours on Monday next will be devoted to the general discussion of the budget. The discussion on the demands and voting on them will take place from Monday, the 9th August. The maximum time of seven days allowable for the purpose has been allotted. Three out of the seven days may be devoted to Public Works, Education, and Land Revenue, each of these demands being given not more than one day. The remaining demands will have to be dealt with before the close of the seventh day. At the end of the time allotted for the discussion of each demand, all pending motions in respect of it will automatically lapse; and at 5 O'clock on the evening of the last of the days allotted, every question in connection with demands for grants will be put to the House under Rule 49 (3).

As in previous years each member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed, during the general discussion, not more than 20 minutes. When voting for demands for grants, every mover and the official member who has the right of reply will be allowed 10 minutes each, the other members being given 5 minutes each. Following the precedent in past years, the motions on the budget need not be seconded.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, the situation created by the enactment of Regulation V of 1101 is an important question and deserves consideration in this House. I am particularly thankful to the President for his anxiety to listen to the discussion upon this subject. It need hardly be pointed out that in enacting the Newspapers Regulation the existence of this Council was completely ignored. Looking back —

PRESIDENT: May I draw the member's attention to the relevancy clause in regard to speeches? I fail to see how this matter is directly relevant to the budget.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is the general discussion of the budget that is now before the House. The general administration of the State is in the budget and the duties of Magistrates, Police officers, and other officers of Government under the Newspapers Regulation as well as their pay come up for consideration here-

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The fact that this Council was not consulted in the matter of enacting this particular Regulation is also another aspect of the question. I would also point out that the President, having admitted two motions to discuss this matter under particular items, cannot object to the discussion of this matter in the general discussion of the budget.

PRESIDENT: The general discussion of the budget in my view is a business-like enunciation of views specifically relating to the principles involved in the budget or the budget as a whole. In this case, I quite see what the member has in his mind. But at the same time, to discuss a question of high polity and abstract right and so on in juxtaposition with so many thousands of rupees allotted to this purpose or that is really a far-fetched and strained view of the rights of discussion on the budget.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is for the redress of grievances that this subject is brought up.

MR. KAYYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In that case, I would draw attention to Rule 48 of the Legislative Council Rules which reads thus:—

"The Council shall be at liberty to discuss the budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein but no motion shall be moved at this stage nor shall any member be entitled to divide the Council in respect of any such discussion on the budget."

So, the question is, does the grievance come within that?

PRESIDENT: It does not.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it the ruling from the Chair that this matter is irrelevant to the discussion of the budget?

PRESIDENT: My ruling is that it is not in direct relation to the purpose of the general discussion of the budget. Therefore, I rule it out of order.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Thank you, Sir.

PRESIDENT: At great pains I tried to explain to you how anxious I was to give you and the other members of the Council an opportunity for discussing the topic you are now attempting to dwell upon. It is not that I want to stifle discussion. It is a question of the application of the rules.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Therefore I take it that I am ruled out of order when I referred to the Newspapers Regulation during the general discussion of the budget.

PRESIDENT: I say that under the rule just quoted by the Law Member this is not appropriate to the money provisions raised in the general budget discussion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So, I think, I am not allowed to discuss the matter now.

PRESIDENT: No. Not so long as you do not show any connection with the money provision of the budget which is really what we are dealing with now.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Am I at liberty to continue my speech, Sir ?

PRESIDENT : This matter as put by the member is not relevant to the budget discussion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : If this is the ruling with reference to the Newspapers Regulation—

PRESIDENT : May I draw the member's attention to the rule which says that the President's ruling is not subject to discussion ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I am not discussing it. If this is the ruling from the Chair, I simply resume my seat.

PRESIDENT : Does any other member wish to speak upon to-day's business ?

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : മിസ്റ്റർ നീലകണ്ഠപ്പിള്ള ഇവിടെ വായിച്ച ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പ്രസംഗത്തെ മുഴുവനും ഞാൻ ശ്രദ്ധയോടു വായിച്ചുനോക്കി. അതു വെറും പച്ചവെള്ളമാണ്. അതിൽ കൈയ്യോ, ഇനിപ്പോ, ചവർപ്പോ ഒന്നുംതന്നെയില്ല. ബഡ്ജറിലെ സംഖ്യകളുടെ വിവരണങ്ങളെ പ്രസ്താപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നല്ലാതെ ഗവൺമെൻറ് അടുത്ത കൊല്ലം സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയം എന്താണെന്നോ അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ജനസാമാന്യവും ഈ സഭാംഗങ്ങളും അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കേണ്ട സംഗതികൾ എന്തെല്ലാമാണെന്നോ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ വിവരിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല.

ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും മുന്ന് റയിൽവേ ലയിൻ സർവ്വെചെയ്യാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതിലേയ്ക്ക് ഏകദേശമായിട്ടെങ്കിലും എന്തു ചിലവു വരുമെന്നോ ആ ചിലവിന് ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് എന്തു മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളാണ് നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നെന്നോ ബഡ്ജറു പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ വിവരിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : ബഡ്ജറിൽ അതിനു പ്രൊവിഷൻ ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : പ്രൊവിഷൻ ഉണ്ട്. അതു സർവ്വെചെയ്യുന്നതിനാണ്. സർവ്വെചെയ്യാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു തീവണ്ടി നടപ്പാക്കാനാണ്. അതിലേയ്ക്ക് എന്തു ചിലവുവരുമെന്ന് ഏകദേശമായിട്ടെങ്കിലും ഗവൺമെൻറു അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കാൻ ഇടയുണ്ട്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഈ സഭാംഗങ്ങളും അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. റയിൽവെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഡിസ്കസ് ചെയ്യാൻ സഭക്ക് അധികാരമില്ലെങ്കിലും ബഡ്ജറിലെ മറു ഭാഗങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ സഭാംഗങ്ങൾ അതു അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ഭാവിയിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നാട്ടി

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ന് ഒരു ഭീമമായി വരുന്ന ചിലവ് ഏതിനത്തിൽ കരുതേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്ന എന്നുള്ള ചിന്തക്കുടാതെ ബഡ്ജറിന്റെ ശേഷം ഭാഗത്തിലേക്കു പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതു് അശേഷം മൻകരുതൽ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു പ്രവർത്തിയായി തീരുന്നതാണു്.

അതുപോലെ ലാസ്ഡിലേസ് കമ്മിറ്റി എന്നപേരിൽ ഒരു കമ്മറ്റിക്കു ഭീമമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ ചിലവിടാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. മൈസൂർ, മദ്രാസ് മുതലായ പല ദേശങ്ങളിലും ലാസ്ഡിലേസ് കമ്മറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ നമുക്കു വായിച്ചുനോക്കത്തക്ക സൌകര്യത്തിലും ഇരിക്കുന്നു. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഇത്ര വളരെ പണം ചിലവുചെയ്തു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നു് ഒന്നും ബഡ്ജറു പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നില്ല.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): മൈസൂരിലേയും മദ്രാസിലേയും ഇവിടത്തേയും സ്ഥിതി ഒരുപോലെയാണൊ?

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): മൈസൂരിലേയും മദ്രാസിലേയും ഇവിടത്തേയും സ്ഥിതി ഒരുപോലെ അല്ലെങ്കിലും ആ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ വച്ചുനോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിനു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള സംഗതികൾ അതിൽനിന്നും മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. അതിലേക്കു വൃ മാസക്കാലത്തോളം ൧,൫൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഒരു പ്രസിഡൻറും വൃ൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പറും ൪൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഒരു സിക്രട്ടറിയും രണ്ടുമൂന്നു അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പന്മാരുംകൂടി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു തെളിവു ശേഖരിച്ചു് ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ടു സമർപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): മെമ്പക്കു തുകയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മാത്രമെ ആക്ഷേപമുള്ളൊ?

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഇത്ര ഭീമമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യചിലവഴിച്ചു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ആവശ്യമില്ല എന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

നാഗർകോവിലിൽ ഹൈസ്കൂളിലെ ഫർണിച്ചർ വകയ്ക്കു ൫,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. കുന്നത്തുനാടു മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ സ്കൂളും അതിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള സാമാനങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുത്താൽ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ ആക്കാമെന്നാണു് ഗവർമെൻറു സാധാരണ പറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നതു്. കോട്ടാറിലെ ഹൈസ്കൂളിനു

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൨൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവു ചെയ്യാൻ ഒരു മടിയും ഇല്ലാ. ഈ ൨൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ രണ്ടു ഹൈസ്കൂൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): രണ്ടു സ്കൂൾ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ ആക്കുന്നതിന് അതുയും തുക വേണമൊ?

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): മുഴുവനും വേണ്ടിവരികയില്ലായിരിക്കാം. അതിൽ കുറവായിരിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായം കുറെക്കൂടെ ശക്തിമത്തായിരിക്കുമല്ലൊ. എന്നാൽ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ വടക്കെ അറ്റത്തുള്ള ഞങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഈ വിധമാണ് സമാധാനം പറയുക. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു നാഗർകോവിലിലെ ഹൈസ്കൂളിൽ ഫർണിച്ചർ വകക്കു ൨,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവു ചെയ്യാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഒരു ന്യായവും ഇല്ലാ. ഇതുപോലെ പല സംഗതികളും എടുത്തു കാണിക്കാൻ ഉണ്ട്. മറുഭാഗങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ആ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളാം.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വടക്കൻ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും തെക്കൻ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും വല്ല വ്യത്യാസവും ഉണ്ടൊ.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. വടക്കൻ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങൾക്കു കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുമ്പോൾ സാമാനങ്ങളും മറ്റും കൂടി ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു കുന്നത്തുനാട്ട്, ആലുവാ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളോടു ഗവർണ്മെന്റു പറഞ്ഞ മറുപടി കേട്ടിട്ടുള്ള അനുഭവം കൊണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞതാണ്.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): Sir, in discussing this budget I have to say that I am not fully prepared for a proper discussion of it to-day. But seeing the situation, I think it is my duty to stand up and say what I have to say on it.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*)): May I know what is the situation that the member is referring to?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): Last year, I found that there was a rush of speakers and every member was looking to catch the eye of the President. But to-day I find ample time intervening between one speaker and another. So I thought that instead of leaving it—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇതിനു കാരണം എന്താണ്?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): That may be due to the mentality of each member. I am not a student of psychology. So I cannot answer him. Well, Sir, even on a cursory view of the budget—

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that there are members like him who are not prepared to speak to-day?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): Certainly.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Then why does he attribute bad mentality?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): I never attributed any bad mentality.

Sir; in viewing this budget, I think I may pass a few criticisms over it. Looking at the Public Works Department, I think that the northern parts of Travancore have not received as much attention as was expected by the people there. To refer to one particular instance, I remember the Government had promised on several occasions to connect the Parur taluk with the mainland of Travancore by a bridge over the Periyar. Even during the last budget, my friend Mr. C. P. Tarakan had put the question to the Government whether they will construct the bridge over the Periyar. Last year, the Government spent nearly Rs. 500 in investigating and marking out the site for the bridge. But now there is no provision for the construction of the bridge and no step has been taken by the Government at least to make a beginning regarding that. The necessity for a bridge is a point on which the people of the Parur and Kunnatnad taluks agree.

Another matter is that last year a big amount had been set apart for some home industry or so. But though twelve months have rolled on, I do not find that anything tangible or substantial has been done.

Coming to the field of education, in the last year's budget speech, the Financial Secretary told the House that the expenditure on higher education is becoming so enormous that the Government have in view some sort of reform in that direction. Whether they have reformed or not, something or other should be done. I do not mean to say that the Government must get rid of higher education.

There is already the scheme for the Travancore University and that too as a residential system. But the Government should as early as possible come to a definite decision on the point. The people of the country are in a doubt as to whether the Government are going to have a university, whether it is a residential university, whether it is to be in Trivandrum or any other part of Travancore. The private institutions, that is, those which are willing to co-operate with the Government in the matter, are in a dilemma. They want to have their institutions in other parts of Travancore as we were doing in the past, but when we come to the Government for help, Government may turn round and "say we have got a scheme before us; before the scheme is settled we cannot give any encouragement to you". So it is better not to leave the people in this puzzle; it is better to arrive at a settlement one way or the other.

Another aspect which I would like to bring to your consideration is in the matter of agriculture. I need not say that our people are mainly

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ultivators. The greatest defect at present is that the people in those arts living near the hills do not get sufficient land to cultivate. The Government have got so much of reserved forests that it would do well to ree a few acres out of them and give them to the people for cultivation. Another matter of help to the cultivators is that almost every tiller in our land is in debt. It is not the improved method of agriculture or mproved implements of agriculture that can save the ordinary cultivator of Travancore. He is already in the merciless clutches of the usurer. How to free that man is the problem. The trouble is not agricultural, but economic. Unless the Government organise co-operative banks on an agricultural basis and give loans to the people and make them within the easy reach of the ordinary public, it is useless for the Agricultural Department to give agricultural implements.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know what the member exactly means by co-operative banks on *agricultural* basis?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): Co-operative banks which are mainly intended and which in their practical working may assist the agriculturists.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The member probably means agricultural banks on co-operative basis?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): The co-operative banks may be viewed from several standpoints. A co-operative bank may be formed with a view to advance industry or with a view to advance commerce or agriculture and the working rules may be so framed as to give more facilities for a man of commerce to get more benefit from that bank than an agriculturist. So the rules for the working of the bank may be so framed and adjusted that the banks may give facilities to the agriculturists or the industrialists. That was what exactly I meant. I may not have expressed myself so very happily.

Another aspect of the question which I wish to bring to the consideration of the House is that a good many people, especially in North Travancore, are wasting their money on liquor. I remember that the Municipality of Alwaye have sent in a resolution to the Government that the Municipality should be allowed to take away the shops from the Municipal limits. In that way, not only the local bodies but several other prominent bodies have approached the Government to relax their hold a bit in this matter.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Has the resolution been received by the Government?

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): The Municipality has published it in the *Government Gazette*. I do not know whether it has been received by the Government. As I am the President of the Alwaye Municipality and as it is an official secret, I will not say anything more about it. I know that the Government can give some sort of help to the promoters of the temperance movement. There are difficulties in the way of Government conceding this. A big portion of the revenue will be taken away

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[Mr. N. V. Joseph.]

from the Excise Department. To take away all the revenue from abkari may jeopardise the Government. I do realise that. But the ultimate end and the gradual working of the department should be directed towards that object. It is not the objective of the Government that I criticise, but it is the working of the department. The Excise Inspectors and all the officials in the Excise Department, I fear, are afraid whenever they meet a temperance man or a teetotaller. Anyhow, the Government will take a charitable view in that matter. This is my wish.

Well, Sir, I may not have made an effective speech because there have been so many speeches in the last budget session and on other occasions in this Council that we have enough material besides the poor-representation of Mr. Joseph. (*Laughter*). So when I stood up I wanted only to present these few points to the notice of the Government. I think I have succeeded in my attempt and therefore I sit down. (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. KERALAVARMA KOILTAMPURAN (*Edavagai*). കഴിഞ്ഞആണ്ടത്തെപോലെ ഈ ആണ്ടിലും ഒരു സർപ്ലസ് ബഡ്ജറ്റ് കിട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനേയും ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസിക്രട്ടറിയേയും അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഒരു സർപ്ലസ്ബഡ്ജറ്റ് കിട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം അനുമോദനത്തിന്നവകാശമുണ്ടോ എന്നു ചോദിച്ചേയ്ക്കാം. അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ—അതായതു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്ഇൻഡ്യയിലേയോ മറ്റു നാട്ടരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേയോ—സ്ഥിതിനോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയും രാജ്യഭരണരീതികളും എത്രയോ നല്ലതരത്തിലാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. വേണ്ടതുപോലെ ചിലവുകഴിച്ചു രാജ്യത്തിനു ക്ഷേമം വരുത്തുന്നപക്ഷം കുറെ അധികം കടം വന്നാലും തരക്കേടില്ലെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ചിലവുഭാഗത്തു ചേത്തിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയിൽ വലിയദോഷങ്ങളൊന്നും ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതും ശരിയാണെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. എന്നാൽ ചിലഭാഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ചില്ലറയായ ന്യൂനതകളെല്ലാമിരിക്കാം. പക്ഷെ അവയെല്ലാം ക്ഷന്തവ്യങ്ങളായിട്ടുള്ളതേയുള്ളൂ. പൊതുജനക്ഷേമത്തിനു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ പല സംഗതികളും തിരസ്കരിച്ചുലജനാവിൽ പണം മിച്ചം വയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു ഫലവുമില്ല. ആ നയം അഭിനന്ദനീയവുമല്ല. നേരെമറിച്ചു കാലാനുസൃതമായ പല പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളും നടത്തുന്നതിൽ രാജ്യത്തിനു കുറെ കടം വന്നുപോയി എന്നിരുന്നാലും വിരോധമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ വരവുഭാഗത്തിലും ചിലവുഭാഗത്തിലും എന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപെട്ടിടത്തോളം വലുതായിട്ടുള്ള ന്യൂനതകൾ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ കാണുന്നില്ല വളരെ കാല

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മായി നടന്നുവരുന്ന പതിവിനെ വിടാതേയും രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തേയും കാലാവസ്ഥയേയും അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയും ബുദ്ധിപൂർവം നിർമ്മിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ബഡ്ജറാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇതുപോലെ തന്നെ ആണ്ടോടാണ്ടു് സർപ്ലസ്ബഡ്ജറുതന്നെ കിട്ടുന്നപക്ഷം അതു രാജ്യത്തിനു വളരെ ക്ഷേമകരമായിരിക്കും.

ഒന്നാമതായി രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻഫീസ് വകയിൽ ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ കുറെ കൂടുതലായിട്ടു പിരിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതു നായന്മാരുടേയും ഈഴവരുടേയും ഇടയിലുള്ള ഭാഗം നിമിത്തം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽപറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ എന്റെ അറിവിൽപെട്ടിടത്തോളം അനേകം സാധുക്കൾ ഈ ഫീസ് തീർക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. സാധുക്കളെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തി സർക്കാരിലേക്കു മുതലെടുപ്പു കൂട്ടുന്ന നയം നല്ലതല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ചെറിയ നഷ്ടം നേരിട്ടാലും സാധുക്കളുടെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി അവരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും ഭാഗത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഫീസ് വേണ്ടെന്നു വയ്ക്കുണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഇടവകകർഷകത്തുള്ള കുടിയാന്മാരിൽനിന്നും ആദായനികുതി പിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വന്നതിനാൽ ഏകദേശം ഫ്ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം ആ വക കരത്തിനു കുറവുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഇടവക കുടിയാന്മാരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും ഭൂസ്വത്തിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായത്തിൻ ആദായനികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും ശരിയല്ല. കുടിയാന്മാർ സർക്കാരിലേക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ട രാജഭോഗമാണു് അവർ ഇടവക ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാക്കും കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*) : ബില്ലിനെപറ്റി ഇവിടെ സംസാരിക്കാമോ?

MR. C. KERALAVARMA KOILTAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): ഒരു ബില്ലിനെപറ്റിയും ഇവിടെ ഞാൻ ഒന്നും പറഞ്ഞില്ലല്ലോ. ഇടവക കുടിയാന്മാരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും ആദായനികുതി ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനെപറ്റി ബഡ്ജറിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആദായ നികുതി ഇടവകകുടിയാന്മാരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും ഈടാക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായമായിരിക്കുമെന്നേ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞൊള്ളൂ.

ഇംഗ്ലീഷു് ആശുപത്രികൾക്കായിട്ടു വളരെ പണം ചിലവിടുന്നതായിട്ടുകാണുന്നു. ആയുർവ്വേദ വകുപ്പിനു വളരെ കുറച്ചേപണം ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ ഈനാട്ടിലെ സമ്പ്രദായം സൂക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം

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[Mr. C. Keralavarma Koiltampuran.]

ആളുകൾക്കു ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിലാണ് അധികം വിശ്വാസമുള്ളതെന്നുകാണാം. ഇംഗ്ലിഷു് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ ആവിർഭാവത്തോടുകൂടി മറ്റു പല സംഗതികളിലുമെന്നപോലെ ചികിത്സക്കായി കുറെ ആളുകൾക്കു് ആയുർവ്വേദചികിത്സയിലും വിശ്വാസം കുറഞ്ഞു എങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ വളരെ വിശ്വാസം ആയുർവ്വേദചികിത്സയിലാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ ആളുകൾക്കു വളരെവിശ്വാസം ജനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിനു വളരെപണം കുറച്ചുമാത്രവാങ്ങിക്കയും ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ചികിത്സക്കു കൂടുതൽപണം മാത്രവാങ്ങിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥമെന്താണെന്നു് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ നാട്ടു വൈദ്യശാലകൾക്കു ഗ്രാന്റു കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു പരിപാടിയാണ് നടന്നുവരുന്നതു്. ഗ്രാന്റുവൈദ്യന്മാർ അവരുടെ ഗ്രാന്റിൽനിന്നും പണം എടുത്തു മരുന്നുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു മിച്ചമാക്കുകയല്ലാതെ സ്വന്തം പണം എടുത്തു ഉപയോഗിക്കയെന്നുള്ളതു് അത്രഎളുപ്പമുള്ളതല്ല. അതിനാൽ സർക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും വൈദ്യന്മാർക്കു ശമ്പളംകൊടുത്തു് ഓരോസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിച്ചു അവർക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള മരുന്നുകളും ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുത്താൽ വളരെ ഗുണമുണ്ടു്. ഇതു് ആദ്യം പ്രധാനപട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു പരിശോധനയായിട്ടെങ്കിലും തുടങ്ങിയാൽ നന്നായിരിക്കും.

ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും അനേകം സാധുക്കൾ റോഡുനീളെഅലഞ്ഞു നടക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവരുടെ കഷ്ടതകൾക്കൊരവസാനവുമില്ല. 'ധർമ്മരാജ്യം' എന്നു് ഇൻഡ്യാഒട്ടുക്കു കേൾവികേട്ട ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇതുവളരെ സാധുക്കൾ അനാഥരായി അലഞ്ഞു നടക്കാൻ ഇടവരുത്തുന്നതു് ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനും ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനും ഒരുപോലെ ലജ്ജാവഹമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ർ ക്ഷ ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം സ്റ്റേറുചാരിട്ടിഎന്നഇനത്തിലേക്കു നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. വെളിയിൽ നിന്നു നോക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു് ഇവിടെധാരാളം ധർമ്മം നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോയേക്കും. എന്നാൽ അകത്തുകയറിനോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം സ്റ്റേറുചാരിട്ടി ഒക്കെ എവിടെ പോകുന്നു എന്നു സംശയവും തോന്നിപോകും. ഇന്നലെത്തന്നെ ഞാൻ ഒന്നരണ്ടുസാധുക്കൾ റോഡിൽ കിടന്നു കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതുകണ്ടു. എനിക്കുവളരെ വ്യസനംതോന്നി. എനിക്കുകഴിവുള്ളതു ഞാൻ കൊടുക്കയുംചെയ്തു. ഇതുപോലെ പലരും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു മതിയായില്ല. യൂറോപ്യൻരാജ്യങ്ങളിലുള്ളതുപോലെ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ഒരു Poor Asylum തന്നെ സ്ഥാപിക്കണം. ഈ ടെയണിൽതന്നെ ഈസ്ഥിതിയായാൽ പിന്നെ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ

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കഥപറയാനുണ്ടോ? സ്റ്റോറ് ചാരിട്ടി എന്നതിനെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു പഴയസമ്പ്രദായമനുസരിച്ചാണു്. അതിനെ ഒന്നു പരിഷ്കരിച്ചു നവീനസമ്പ്രദായത്തിലാക്കണം. ജാതിമതഭേദംകൂടാതെ അതു സകല സാധുക്കൾക്കും ഉപകാരമാകുമാക്കിത്തീർക്കണം.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): ഇടവകയിൽ നിന്നും ധർമ്മം വകയുള്ള ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. KERALAVARMA KOILTAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): യഥാശക്തി അവിടെയും ചില ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷേ അതും സ്റ്റോറുചാരിറ്റിസ് പോലെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. (*Laughter.*)

കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതവണയും പറഞ്ഞു. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഗുണമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണു്. പക്ഷേ പഴയസമ്പ്രദായത്തിൽ നിന്നും പുതിയ രീതിയിലേക്കു പോകുന്നതിനു നമ്മുടെ കൃഷിക്കാർ വളരെ വിമുഖതയുള്ളവരാണു്. ഈ സ്വഭാവവുംകൊണ്ടു് ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ മുന്നോട്ടുള്ള ഗതിക്കു വളരെ തടസ്സം നേരിടുന്നുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷേ അതു കാലക്രമം കൊണ്ടേ നിങ്ങുകയുള്ളൂ. കുറെക്കൂടി ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു പണം അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം. അഗ്രികൾച്ചറൽ ലോൺവകയ്ക്കു രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. പക്ഷേ അതു് ആവശ്യമുള്ളവർക്കു കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. ഞാൻ ചിറയിൻകീഴ് താലൂക്കിൽ അന്വേഷിച്ചു നോക്കി. സാധുക്കളും ലോൺ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതിനു യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരും ആയ ആളുകൾക്കു കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിലേക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകയെ സമമായി ഭാഗിച്ചു് എല്ലാ താലൂക്കുകൾക്കും കൊടുക്കണം. ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും തഹശീൽദാർ, കൃഷി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ നിയമസഭമെമ്പർ ഇവരെച്ചേർത്തു് ഒരു ബോർഡായി രൂപീകരിച്ചു് അവരുടെ ശിപാർശപ്രകാരം ലോൺ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയാൽമാത്രം മതി. അല്ലാതെ കുറെ റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണരുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിലും, കുറെ പേഷ്കാരുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിലും ഇപ്രകാരമെല്ലാം ലോൺകൊടുക്കുകയെന്ന വയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കുകൂടി ഇതിൽ സൌകര്യം കൊടുത്താൽ അതു വളരെ നന്നായിരിക്കും.

ഇവിടെ സർക്കാർരൂപാ എന്നൊരു നാണയമേഇല്ല. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഇങ്ങിനെ 'ഇമാജിനറി'യായി ഒരു നാണയം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമെന്തെന്നു് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. രൂപായായിട്ടുള്ള ചില

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[Mr. C. Keralavarma Koiltampuran.]

വുകളെല്ലാം ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്രൂപയാക്കിയാൽ എളുപ്പമുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം അരചക്രം നഷ്ടമുണ്ടെല്ലോ എന്നു വാദിച്ചേയ്ക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ആ നഷ്ടംകൂടാതെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു പല മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടല്ലോ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെമാതിരി ഒരു പഴയ സമ്പ്രദായമാണ്. അതിനെ ഒന്നു ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു നല്ല പരിഷ്കാരമായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് എനിക്കുതോന്നുന്നു. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒ പണത്തിനുള്ള ഒരു നാണയം അടിക്കണം.

ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായി എനിക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒന്നും പറയാനില്ല.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, last year during the general discussion of the budget, I was much benefited by closely listening to the speeches delivered by the senior members in this Council. This year also I was waiting to hear the speeches of elderly and experienced members like Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. But unfortunately due to a ruling from the Chair, on some point, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai did not continue his speech and it seems he has even left the Hall. I am sorry to see that members do not always consider the relevancy of the subjects they take up in these discussions. Like Mr. N. V. Joseph I am also at a great disadvantage to speak anything on this occasion. But since there is plenty of time before me and since it is not justifiable to waste public time and money unnecessarily, I also rise to make a few observations on this year's budget.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I suggest that this sort of speech goes to show that members are rushing out to save a situation even at their personal sacrifice ?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I never meant anything like that and I do not attribute any motive to Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, and if anybody doubts I have made any, I would even apologise.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What I meant was this. From what Mr. N. V. Joseph and Mr. K. I. Joseph said it would go to record that there was some grave *situation* to save which alone they at personal sacrifice rushed to stand up though they came unprepared for a speech to-day. Sir, I am only suggesting if it would be a desirable impression to create.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): In that category, I never included Mr. A. K. Pillai. I was waiting to hear the speeches of more experienced and elderly members.

Regarding the budget, my first point is as regards the item set apart for the Legislative Council. Of course, it is only very recently that the Newspapers Regulation, V of 1101, has been promulgated without introducing the same in the Council itself.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): Is the member in order ?

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MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I find that a certain amount of money has been allotted in the budget under the item 'Legislative Council' and so I am speaking on this subject. I think I am perfectly in order if I make any suggestion as regards that item of expenditure in my general discussion.

PRESIDENT: The principle is that a member can speak on the ubject at length with a close adherence to the money value. If he preceeds to indulge in a discussion of the broad policy of the Newspapers Regulation as a question affecting the public through the Council, then he is moving into the regions which I ruled a little while ago are not within the scope of the budget speech proper. That is purely a business matter; and we are now discussing points directly dea with in the budget.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I may assure the President and the members of the Council that I do not mean to discuss the policy or the provisions of the Newspapers Regulation. I only intend to speak about the item that is set apart for the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT: I may say that the member will have plenty of opportunity for talking on this item.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I wish to bring before the attention of this House that a Regulation has been passed recently without introducing it in the Council itself. If the Government intend to pass Regulations without introducing them in the Council, I do not find any necessity to provide any sum for this Legislative Council.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is the member in order after a ruling from the Chair?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Members here and there are making observations whether I am in order, but I feel I am at perfect liberty to talk on this. I also consider that this is a point on which people of the country feel very keenly.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know whether he was not aware when he accepted the membership of this Council that there was a provision in the Legislative Council Regulation that Regulations can be passed directly by the Sovereign without consulting the Council.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): This is an irrelevant and meaningless question. Yet I shall answer it. My belief was that ordinarily laws will be passed only through the Council. But under exceptional circumstances and pressure of necessity, Regulations could be passed without introducing them in the Council.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Does the member think that this expenditure under the Legislative Council is unnecessary because on emergent occasions the Sovereign passes Regulations?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): It is not brought out that there was any emergency in this particular matter. So considering the policy taken up by the Government in promulgating this particular piece of legislation, I say it is unnecessary to allot any amount under the item Legislative Council.

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[Mr. K. I. Joseph.]

I may offer a few remarks on some other departments also. I come to the Education Department. Last year, the Financial Secretary in his speech specifically stated that the expenditure on this item was growing rapidly and he had assured the House that, before increasing the expenditure any further on this account, a general revision of the educational policy would be taken up. This year's Financial Statement does not contain anything as to that. I further find that provision has been made to raise a second grade college into the first grade and introduce additional groups. It would be easily seen that the people of this country do not benefit much by higher education; higher education only forces them to hunt after public service. The real need of the people is for technical education, so much so that higher education has to be discouraged. Another point I want to urge is about the appointment of high officials in the Education Department. The Director's place may be abolished and the departmental matters may be looked after by a Secretary on Rs. 400 or so and the inspection work by the Inspectors. The number of Inspectors also may be reduced; the high-paid Headmasters may be expected to do their work properly and inspection need not be so very frequent. I may also suggest that a Professor's pay need not be more than Rs. 500 under Travancore conditions. This was a point which I suggested even last year.

Another point is as regards the present system of separate English schools and Vernacular schools. I think it will be much more economical and convenient for the people if these two schools are amalgamated. Of course, for the first two or three years instruction need be given in the Vernacular alone and after that a combined course of English and Vernacular may be given. After that, if anybody wants to specialise in any other line, he may seek higher studies.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does the member suggest that the same standard of efficiency could be obtained by amalgamating Vernacular and English schools?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): What I say is that after amalgamating these schools, the curricula of studies must be adjusted to the needs of these schools and then efficiency may not suffer. In that case, several schools could be abolished and the Government can save much money and instruction could be given more efficiently.

Another point the members of this House have to seriously consider is about the Excise Department. Everybody is aware that the temperance movement is growing on all sides in the country and the Government cannot consider that the income from abkari would be a permanent one. If there is any surplus in this year's budget, it is partly due to the contribution from this abkari revenue and since this is not a permanent source of revenue especially in the light of the fact that people are working heart and soul for the temperance movement, it is better for the Government to look to some other permanent source of revenue. As regards the working of the Excise Department, I may say that the subordinate officers are not vigilant to carry out the

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policy advocated by the Government in the matter. Illicit tapping and illicit trade are going on in very many places, it is said, with the connivance of even the higher officials who influence several people to come and bid for shops.

Next, I come to the Public Works Department. I don't think it is necessary to speak much about this because the dilatoriness in this department is known to all people in Travancore. Anyhow, I may mention one or two facts. Certain roads and bridges which have been sanctioned ever so many years ago are still unattended to. For example, I may say the bridge on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road in Minachil. The estimate for that work was sanctioned in 1916. Still it is as it was. I don't find any work being done on the spot. Every year, the Assembly members make representations on the matter but they are of no practical use. Another thing I want to point out is that sanctioned amounts very often lapse because of the negligence of the authorities concerned. There are ever so many instances of this. I would request the Government to see that proper steps are taken to remedy these latches on the part of the Public Works Department. Regarding the bridge at Mannakanadu on the Lalam-Kadutturutti road, I may say that the whole thing got damaged soon after its construction. I do not know whether it is due to the defect in the design or due to the fault of the contractor who did the work. This point also may be brought to the notice of the Chief Engineer. I only say that public money should not be wasted like this by the Public Works Department. I have little more to say on this subject or on the budget as a whole at present. Therefore, I resume my seat.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, I regret I have to start with an apology for not being ready to-day. Looking at the budget figures for 1101, they show that we have successfully financed the State through a surplus of Rs. 17½ lakhs. This compares very favourably with the figures of last year, and then looking at the figures for the coming year I think the Financial Secretary has been a bit over-careful in giving it at Rs. 3½ lakhs. Judging it from the past by the revised estimate figures for 1101, I believe we can without much fear put the surplus at somewhere about Rs. 10 or 15 lakhs. For the past few years, we have been having surplus budgets and I regret I cannot believe that it is due to the prosperity of the country. For, to those of us who have intimate dealings with the rural population, the conviction is brought home to our minds that the majority of them are really groaning under poverty and that their condition is growing from bad to worse. Lately, I had occasion to refer to the statistical volume published by the Government with a view to find out the amount of rural indebtedness. Though the exact figures are not at our disposal, I had some idea as to the volume of indebtedness that is prevailing in this country. Figures given there for mortgages with possession and for hypothecations show that the debts go to about 6 crores of rupees. This is a debt charged on property. Taking another six crores to represent the amount covered by oral loans, registered bonds and other transactions, I would fix the amount of indebtedness in the country to somewhere about Rs. 13 crores. Knowing as we do that the population of Travancore is mainly agricultural, *i. e.*, about 66 per cent. and

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[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

distributing these 13 crores of rupees to the agricultural population alone the figure works at about Rs. 27 per head of the population. And now, what is the average wealth of the Travancorean? For this we have no data and we have been agitating here and elsewhere for an economic survey of this country? I may say that on the approximate data we have it may be taken to range somewhere about Rs. 100 per head. Now Rs. 27 per head of the population is indeed a heavy debt and unless the Government extend a helping hand to these poor classes, I do not know what in course of time will be the long suffering lot of our contented and patient agricultural population.

The fact that land has got locked up in the hands of the few is also another cause which aggravates indebtedness. The main occupation by which the rural population live is paddy cultivation. The Director of Agriculture would say that an acre of land yields only about seven-fold, *i. e.*, if you sow one *para* of paddy you get on an average seven *paras* of paddy in return. The Director of Agriculture told us last year that the cost of cultivation of one *para* of paddy land is four rupees. Converting it into paddy it may come to about six *paras* of paddy. Capital for cultivation of these paddy lands is mostly borrowed at paddy interest, *i. e.*, 20 per cent. interest. Such being the case, Sir, you will, I am sure, be convinced of the fact that the rural agricultural classes are labouring under heavy indebtedness.

There are other factors also coming into play to increase their poverty greatly. The people in North and Central Travancore know the present state of relationship existing between the *Jennies* and the *Kudiyans*. Now we have been hearing of complaints and meetings and of resolutions sent to the Government to get the Jenmi Kudiyan Regulation amended. Recognising the difficulties experienced by the tenants, the Government instituted a committee and the committee presented a report and submitted a draft bill to the Government. It has been time and again urged that the draft bill submitted by this committee should be introduced into the Council with such amendments as the Government consider fit so that the longstanding grievance of the people may be redressed in some way.

Next to paddy cultivation, the other occupation in which the major portion of the people of Travancore are engaged is garden cultivation or cultivation of the cocoanut tree. Last year also, I believe, I pressed on the attention of the Government that the tax on cocoanut gardens at present, works up to Rs. 7 per acre which is abnormally heavy. Compared with the tax on rubber, tea and other better yielding products, this is really very heavy. Rubber is taxed at Rs. 2 per acre and tea only at Re. 1 per acre. Further, the Government are deriving about 60 per cent. of their customs revenue from the products of the cocoanut tree. Cocoanut cultivation, I need not say, is an industry that is being

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destroyed by devastating pests that are prevalent in this country. There are also other things which come into play. Competition from outside countries such as Fiji, Federated Malaya States and Ceylon where cocoanuts grow abundantly as well as the increasing production of the oil palm of Africa, may in course of time drive out our articles from the market. The scale of export duty that we have was fixed during the German War. It has been fixed arbitrarily. The tariff value is fixed at Rs. 120 per candy and the export duty is 5 per cent. on this tariff value. Anybody who is acquainted with the conditions of Travancore knows that the price has been varying between Rs. 85 and Rs. 100. If you levy Rs. 5 per candy and fix the tariff value at Rs. 120, I think even the department that deals with it will agree that it is a very unfair impositiou in itself. In addition to the land tax which runs to Rs. 7 per acre we have to bear the export duty which comes to Rs. 5 on the hypothetical value of Rs. 120. I think this is so hard that some relief should be given to the cocoanut planter so that this impost may be fair to the producer. This is a matter which I have once again to press on the attention of the Government.

Another factor is the cultivation of the hill country. Occupation of these tracts is based on the Waste Land Rules. Here also, the rural Travancorean has come difficulty. I understand that the application of the only Nair applicant was rejected under the Waste Land Rules on the ground that he was not able to conform strictly to the present rules. The Waste Land Rules have been promulgated in consultation with the European planting interests. Even though a European planter has in his hand about 1,000 or 2,000 acres and even though he is cultivating only a portion of it, when an Indian applies for a piece of land adjoining it, a reference has to be made to the adjoining European planter to know whether he wants the land and his refusal obtained. I may say that these rules work great hardship to the Indian who dares to go into these enterprises.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether Mr. Thomas can go into the provisions of these rules in view of the fact that the President has ruled that reference to the Newspapers Regulation is out of order.

MR. K K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I have not come prepared with the rules, for a discussion on them, but still I know the rules.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether the member is at liberty to go into the specific provisions of the Waste Land Rules or any other Regulation?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I am speaking of the actual difficulty that is experienced by the Travancore ryots. Under the Waste Land Rules, an officer, whoever he be, is bound to enquire into the convenience or otherwise of the neighbouring estate owner. Even though there are permanent boundaries such as rivers or roads and even though the estate owner has 1,000 or 2,000 acres for his own purposes, like the dog in the manger, he is obstructing Travancoreans who are going in for ea cultivation. May I request, Sir, that the Government be pleased to

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[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

look into the Waste Land Rules and give necessary conveniences so that more Travancoreans may take to the cultivation of these lands in future?

Then, in regard to tax on *Kandukrishi* lands, I have to make a request and it is this. The computation may be made at the ordinary market rates so that the main complaint of the *Kandukrishi* tenants may be obviated, that is, the difficulty and inconvenience they experience in measuring out the paddy to the *Kandukrishi Vicharippukar*. Though we have had some sort of consolation on account of the assurance that the matter was engaging the earnest attention of the Government, I regret to observe that, though one full year has elapsed, no tangible result has been achieved in this matter. A deputation waited on the Ag. Dewan lately and, though there was a promise that the matter would be looked into and that steps would be taken to remove the difficulties, I do not think there has been sufficient amelioration of the pitiable condition of the *Kandukrishi* ryots.

Then, I will take up the question of communications in our taluks which affect production in a great measure. I am happy to note that, since Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar took charge of the department, the Northern Division as a whole has been getting a larger share of communications than in former days and at much less cost. As proper encouragement for the enthusiasm shown by the ryots in cutting out roads, the Chief Engineer has been very sympathetically taking up for maintenance the roads cut by the ryots and has thus been helping them a good deal. As a matter of fact, what we do want is more drainage channels. The currents of the torrential rivers of Minachil, Muvattupuzha and Alwaye have to be diverted so that the low-lying paddy lands which are at present remaining unproductive may be made more useful, and so that the country may also be relieved from the devastations of floods. European countries have been spending large amounts in constructing both irrigational and drainage canals. If this is done, even during heavy floods, the people could make use of these canals. During rains and floods, navigation in these torrential rivers becomes almost impossible on account of the current. I therefore request that a special officer may be appointed to go into the question and suggest a scheme by which the current of many of our rivers may be diverted in canals and the latter made use of to fertilise paddy lands which are at present yielding just enough to cover the cost of cultivation.

Coming next to the Agricultural Department, I regret to say that the allotment of Rs. 2,17,000 for that department is not at all sufficient if the Agricultural Department is intended to do really useful work. This sum of Rs. 2,17,000 is mostly swallowed up by the establishment charges and travelling allowance of officers. If you want to do real development work, I think, at least Rs. 10,00,000 should be ear-marked for the development of Agriculture; and the Director of Agriculture should be asked to see that this money is well spent to the advantage of the agriculturists of the country.

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MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): I have never been present at the previous sessions of this Council at which the budget had been discussed, not even as a visitor. I do not, therefore, know what is expected of a member when he is to make a speech on the budget in general. However, when I looked into the budget, certain feelings arose in my mind and I beg permission to give expression to those feelings.

Taking chiefly the matters obtaining in South Travancore, it will be admitted that in South Travancore industries and commerce are practically non-existent. The chief occupation of the people of South Travancore is agriculture. That is the mainstay of the people, and, to help the agriculturists, Government, no doubt, have done a great deal in the provision of the Pechippara reservoir. Relying upon the continuous supply of water from that reservoir, the ryots of South Travancore have converted their garden lands into wet lands and have, for the last so many years, been cultivating paddy on those lands. I might observe that the tax on paddy lands is the heaviest in South Travancore. In addition to that, the nature of the lands in South Travancore is such that, unless very intensive work is done, the return will be meagre. This observation applies particularly to the new conversions. I know this from my own observation. The cultivation of about four acres of land lying near a road and by the side of a channel has cost the cultivator not less than Rs. 300. That works out to about Rs. 75 per acre. I know, for a fact, that the work done for the sum of Rs. 75 was not anything more than what was necessary. In fact it was even less than what was absolutely necessary to raise a good crop. From this, it can easily be inferred what expenditure will have to be incurred by a person possessing lands far removed from roads and canals, in order to raise a crop. One of the previous speakers observed—I think, with regard to North Travancore—that the average yield from paddy lands is about seven *kottas*. Well, if I take the average in South Travancore, including the new conversions, I shall be obliged to give a figure much lower than that; and for this poor yield one has to spend on an average, about Rs. 75. That is not a very satisfactory state of affairs. I must observe that these things are not taken into serious consideration by the officers who are placed over us to help us in our difficulties. Means of communication have been greatly wanting in the areas under paddy cultivation. The carriage of manure, green leaf and other things, is found very difficult in great many places. I know that, for several years, representations have been made at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to convert one of the banks of the channels in South Travancore into cart roads in order to enable the cultivator to carry manure to his fields and take a good produce. The promise has often been made that that would be done, but we do not see much effort being taken to redeem that promise made by the Government. The Government recently struck a new line to obviate this difficulty, or rather to shut up the mouths of those who repeatedly complained of want of necessary facilities for communications; and that was a set of rules, Ryots' Roads Rules as they would call it. I should not be considered to be too strong in my expression if I say that a more unreasonable set of rules cannot be imagined.

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[Mr. Paul Daniel.]

These rules have been very severely criticised in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and then also a consideration of the question was promised From certain questions put in this Council by Mr. Kumara Pillai; I understood that it has been promised in this Council also that the rules would be speedily taken up for consideration and altered so as to suit the condition of the ryots of South Travancore. Whilst the rules are of this nature, the people, on account of the great difficulty that they experienced joined together,—hundreds of them—(a thing which does not ordinarily happen in our country) surrendered portions of their lands and spent money in converting the traces surrendered by them into a sort of road. All the people who own lands do not require such roads in equal urgency. Some in order to oblige their neighbours and some others in order to oblige those who would be much benefited by the opening of these roads, surrendered portions of their own lands to be converted into roads. But the Government are always slow in taking advantage of the enthusiasm of the people and in taking such roads into their protection and in rendering other kinds of help which the people expect at the hands of the officers of Government. I may mention a case in point. There is a ryots' road opened nearly five years ago. It is about two and a half miles long. The people surrendered portions of their lands, worked at it and engaged coolies to level it and to make it a sort of a cart road. The people are using it now. They petitioned the Government to maintain it at Government cost. This was represented at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly three years ago, and the people expected, from the reply given then, that it would immediately be taken up by the Government for maintenance at Government cost. But, unfortunately, even to-day, the road is as it was four or five years ago. When I went through this budget, anxiously expecting to see some provision in it for the maintenance of that road, I was greatly disappointed to find that no mention whatever has been made in it about this road. This is the kind of assistance that these already over-burdened ryots are getting from the officers from whom they expect all necessary help.

Then, I beg to point out, in this connection, that most of the drainage channels that have been running through these lands from time immemorial have been narrowed and encroached upon by the owners of lands on either side to such an extent as to become a real menace to the cultivator. If a responsible officer would investigate the causes of at least the minor breaches during the last floods, he would certainly be convinced that the chief cause of most of these minor breaches is the narrowing of these channels. In several places, these breaches appear in one and the same place year after year. Some temporary shift is made for the time being and the water is made to flow through the channels. But, when there is heavy rain there is breach again in the same place. This is repeated year after year. Money is being wasted in the repair of these minor breaches which appear in one and the same place year after year without hardly any attempt being made to find out the real cause and to widen these channels to their original width so that these damages to the cultivators may be effectively and permanently avoided.

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As regards the Education Department, I may mention one little point. The Government very graciously introduced some years ago the system of fee concessions to the depressed and backward classes, and more recently, to a certain proportion of the poor among the forward classes also. This no doubt entails a loss to the schools. So far as the Government schools are concerned, the loss affects the Government and the Government alone. But there are private schools where also the department is anxious that this scheme of fee concessions is introduced. If in a place there is a Government school and a private school, boys who expect to get fee concessions go and join the Government school if the system of fee concessions has not been introduced into the private school. This is undue competition which the poor managers of some private schools have to face. If there are two private schools in one and the same place, there is rivalry between these two schools and the manager of one of them introduces the scheme with a view to attract the poor boys from the other school where the manager may not be willing to introduce the scheme fearing the loss he will have to sustain on account of the introduction of the scheme. Consequently, these managers of private schools are also invariably obliged to introduce the scheme of fee concessions in their schools. According to the rules now in force, the Government make good only three-fourths of the loss which the managers of private schools incur on account of the introduction of the scheme in their schools. I do not see the reasonableness of that. The Government have introduced a scheme and they are now practically forcing the managers of private schools also to introduce it in their own schools. As a matter of fact, some schools have to lose to the extent of about Rs. 700 every year in the shape of loss of fees due to the introduction of this scheme of fee concessions. I think this is a matter which requires the serious consideration of the Government.

PRESIDENT: There is an important ceremonial function to-day to which officers of the State are obliged to attend, and the non-official members of the Council have been invited. Therefore, the Council will not sit this afternoon after lunch. We adjourn till eleven-thirty to-morrow morning.

The Council adjourned for at 1-50 P. M.

T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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